

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 013077 TOSEC 010042
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SSM-05 H-02 SSO-00 CCO-00
SS-15 PA-02 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 /072 R

DRAFTED BY:NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY:NEA/P:REUNDELAND
S/PRS:MR CARTER (INFO)
SSM:MR MCANDREW
NEA/ARN:MR DRAPER
NEA/ARP:MR TWINAM
H:MR FLATEN (INFO)
NEA/IAI:MR SMITH
NEA/EGY:MR NEWBERRY
S/S-O:JETHYDEN

-----036361 180112Z /13

O 172315Z JAN 78 ZFF5
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA
NSC
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

SECRETARY FOR ATHERTON AND CARTER

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JANUARY 17

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JANUARY 17,
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1978. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S
PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA, OR WHETHER
SUCH A PLAN WOULD ALLOW PALESTINIANS OUTSIDE THE WEST
BANK TO RETURN?

A. AS ALWAYS, WHEN THE SECRETARY IS TRAVELLING, AND
PARTICULARLY WHEN HE IS TRAVELLING IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND
ENGAGED IN THE KIND OF THING HE IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN,
WE DO NOT TRY TO SECOND GUESS FROM HERE WHAT HE IS DOING,
OR TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT WE MAY BE PROPOSING.
SO THAT IS WHERE I AM GOING TO BE FOR THE DURATION OF THE
TRIP.

Q. WELL, LIKE THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON, DO YOU HAVE
ANY INFORMATION ON THAT, THAT THEY WILL BE STAYING THERE,

OR WHAT IS GOING TO BE DONE WITH THAT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THAT
TODAY, NO.

Q. IN CONNECTION WITH THE TURKISH VISIT, IS THE SECRETARY GOING TO CAIRO OR IS HE NOT GOING TO CAIRO?

A. I THINK THAT HODDING IS NOW ON THE RECORD OUT THERE AS SAYING THE SECRETARY WILL MAKE A STOP IN CAIRO.

Q. WHEN?

A. ON FRIDAY. IT WILL BE A DAY'S STOP, NOT AN OVER-NIGHT STOP. I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS OF HIS SCHEDULE, BUT IT WILL BE AFTER HE LEAVES JERUSALEM AND BEFORE HE GETS TO ANKARA.

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Q. IS HE GOING TO STOP IN JORDAN, ALSO?

A. I HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT ANY STOP IN AMMAN IS PLANNED. NOT TODAY. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q. AT THIS TIME, HE DOES PLAN TO COME BACK ON SUNDAY.

A. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, HE WILL COME BACK ON SUNDAY. I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT ENGRAVED IN STONE, BUT THAT IS OUR EXPECTATION.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS NO THOUGHT OF HIM RETURNING TO JERUSALEM.

A. I CAN'T EXCLUDE THAT THERE IS A THOUGHT THAT HE WILL RETURN TO JERUSALEM. I SAW ONE STORY THAT TRIED TO MAKE IT SEEM AS IF THE VISIT TO GREECE AND TURKEY WOULD ALLOW HIM TO REMAIN IN THE AREA IN CASE HE WANTED TO COME BACK. I DON'T THINK THAT IS THE CASE. I CAN'T EXCLUDE THAT HE WILL GO BACK TO JERUSALEM, BUT I DON'T SEE ANY PRESENT PLANS FOR IT.

Q. WILL YOU TAKE THE QUESTION ABOUT THE LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN SITUATION?

A. YES.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT FROM BEIRUT IN A MAGAZINE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA TOLD PRESIDENT CARTER THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO BUY THE WEST BANK.

A. I SAW THAT STORY.

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Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT PRICE THEY OFFERED?

A. MORE THAN YOU OR I CAN AFFORD. NO. SERIOUSLY SPEAKING, I SAW THE STORY. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT. I AM UNDER THE SAME INJUNCTION THAT I HAVE BEEN BEFORE. WHERE THE PRESIDENT'S TALKS WITH SAUDI LEADERS ARE CONCERNED, I CANNOT GET INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY TO EACH OTHER.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER THERE IS ANY VALIDITY AT ALL TO THAT STORY?

A. I DON'T SEE ANY MYSELF. BUT, IN ANY CASE, I AM UNABLE TO TAKE YOU ANY FURTHER THAN THAT. I DID INQUIRE ABOUT IT AND I AM TELLING YOU WHAT I AM ABLE TO TELL YOU.

Q. WHO WILL GET THE MONEY?

A. GOOD QUESTION.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT SAYING THAT PRESIDENT SADAT MAY BE HERE IN LATE FEBRUARY. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. I CHECKED THAT, AS WELL, AND I HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT THE PRESIDENT OF EGYPT IS EXPECTED HERE IN FEBRUARY OR ANY OTHER TIME IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

Q. ARE YOU EXPECTING BEGIN TO COME HERE?

A. NO. NO PLANS, AS FAR AS I KNOW, FOR THAT EITHER.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD THERE IS NO EXPECTATION THAT HE IS COMING, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF INVITATIONS OUT FOR HIM, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, FROM VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES IN FEBRUARY. ARE
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YOU SAYING THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCUSSION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS AWARE OF ANY VISIT BY HIM, OR THAT SIMPLY, OFFICIALLY THERE HAS BEEN...

A. I AM SAYING THAT AS FAR AS I WAS ABLE TO CHECK, THERE IS NO DISCUSSION, NO PLAN, NO RUMORS OF ANY KIND THAT I KNOW OF SUPPORTING THE STORIES THAT PRESIDENT SADAT IS

GOING TO COME HERE NEXT MONTH.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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